

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT 225th Detached Ski Battalion

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1. The detached 225th Ski Battalion was formed in 1941 at Kazan (55°45'N-49°08'E) in the first military camps which were under the 30th Reserve Ski Brigade. The battalion was very similar to an artillery battalion but did not serve the same purpose. It consisted of one mortar and two artillery companies. Each company had three platoons, subdivided into three detachments. The battalion seldom functioned as a whole unit. Usually it was broken up into small, separate detachments, each having its own assignment, such as scouting and diversionary tactics.
2. Ski troops wore a dark green suit of ribbed material. The trousers were quilted and had elastic straps at the bottom. The jacket had a brown, goat-skin collar and was fastened by criss-crossing a ribbon over buttons sewed on the front. The cap was partly knitted and had ear flaps of goat-skin. Leather ski boots with felt tops (Polupeksami), woolen gloves and woolen underwear completed the equipment.
3. Enlisted personnel were equipped with sub-machine guns, officers with pistols. While on a mission, various types of hand grenades were used in addition to regular arms. The food of the ski battalion was usually good and of high caloric content. When they were sent on a mission, detachments took along chocolate, biscuit, sausage, canned food, pork fat and vodka or some other alcoholic beverage.

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